UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/877
23 February 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda items 20 and 114

FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION
OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 18 February 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the information bulletin entitled "The Savage Face of the Armenian Fascism", published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, regarding the brutal policy toward 4,000 Azerbaijani civilians captured in the occupied Azerbaijani territories by the Armenian armed forces (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 20 and 114.

(Signed) Yashar T. ALIYEV
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

94-08906 (E) 240294 240294

/...

ANNEX

Information bulletin entitled "The Savage Face of the Armenian Fascism", issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

Breaching all norms of international law, the Armenians keep expanding the policy of genocide. The civilian population is being cynically exterminated, hostages are being taken and the civilian objects in the occupied territories are being plundered and totally ruined. The genocide against the people of Azerbaijan is accompanied by innumerable atrocities; thousands of elderly people, women and children have been barbarously murdered in the Khodjali, Shousha, Lachin, Kelbadjar, Agderi, Agdam, Fizouli, Goubatli and Zangelan regions and dead bodies are mutilated. Thousands of civilians, having nothing to do with military action, have been taken hostage. They are subjected to the most barbarous tortures and humiliation, and they have become objects of extortion, threat, blackmail and speculation.

There are about 4,000 Azeris who are currently in the hands of the Armenians. Most of them are physically unfit, crippled, helpless people. Among them there are 84 children, 363 women and 244 elderly people over 60 years old. Many families have been taken hostage together.

The family of the Mammedovs consisting of six members (three of them women) were taken hostage by Armenians on 26 February 1992 while trying to escape the massacre in Khodjali. The family of the Gulievs, 15 people altogether, with women and children among them, were taken hostage in March of this year in Kilsiali village, Kelbadjar region, in June, and 19 members of the Noukhiev family, from Korazilli village, Fizouli region, the eldest of whom was 80, the youngest 8 (Khatira), 6 (Leila) and 4 (Narmina), were also taken hostage. There were other families taken hostage by the Armenians: the Sariyevs (4 members); the Khalilovs from the Agdam region (5 members); the Zeinalovs and Jamilovs from Chorman village (13 people); and the Kiazimovs, the Akhmedovs, the Hassanovs and the Amraliyevs from Bashlibel village of the Kelbadjar region (31 people).

There is no age limit for hostages to be taken. Here are some facts about elderly people held hostage: Mirasta Magerramova from Lachin, 81 years old; Farroukh Tagiyev from Shousha, 84 years old; Eyub Aliyev from Agdam, 89 years old; Goulsum Abbasova and Tamam Verdiyeva from Kelbadjar, both 93 years old; Moulaim Hassanova and Hassan Gassimov, 93 years old; Goulgez Jaffarova, 95 years old; and Mayakhanum Gadimova, 98 years old. Two of the hostages were over 100 years old. So, among hostages, there are 54 people over 70 years old, 23 over 80 years old and 31 over 90 years old.

Roya Zeinalova and Roya Jalilova, of Chorman village, Kelbadjar region, were taken hostage together with their four-year-old children. Natavan Oroudjeva, three years old, and Ragsana Alishova, one year old, from the same village, were also taken hostage. Inhabitants of Bashlibel village, Arzou Airaliyeva's and Afet Mirzoyeva's children are under one year old but they have already known the bitter taste of being taken hostage.

/...

The atrocities and mercilessness of the Armenians have exceeded the limits of all existing human and legal norms. This can be confirmed again by the fact of the capture and taking hostage of seven mental patients from the local mental hospital in the occupied Agdam region. As a result of long negotiations and intervention by international organizations, three of them, Mousa Hodjayev, Jamilia Aslanova and Elshan Gassimov, were released. The other four are still being held hostage in the Children's Hospital of Khankendi. Mental patients captured in other regions are suffering the same fate.

The Armenian violence machine is carrying out an ethnic purge in the occupied territories, driving away not only Azeris but also the representatives of other nationalities - Russians, Kurds, Lezgins, Meskhet Turks and others. Hundred of Kurds have been taken hostage. They used to inhabit the Zangelan, Goubatli and Jebrayil regions together with Meskhet Turks who found shelter here, Russians and Lezgins who have been living here for many years. It is obvious that 80-year-old Anna Rigalova, 81-year-old Maria Korobova and 22-year-old Galina Genadovich, taken hostage by the Armenian guerrillas, could hardly be considered as persons having any relation to military action.

Numerous inquiries made by international organizations about the fate of several Meskhet Turks (Alisher and Jabbar Benaliyevs, Akhmed Ilyasov, Ali Bediyev, Osman Khamdiyev and Gadim Parliyev) taken hostage in 1992 during the genocide in Khodjali, have been ignored by the Armenian party. Going unpunished, encouraged by their patrons on the international level, the Armenians keep on committing their cynical crimes. On 23 October 1993, five members of the Ragimov family of Meskhet Turks were taken hostage in the Zangelan region.

The head of the family, 60-year-old Sadri Ragimov, had had two severe heart attacks; 57-year-old Savia Ragimova had had diabetes; and 13-year-old Vagif Ragimov had had asthma. Rakhima Vakhidova, a Meskhetian Turk, suffering from a mental disease, who had settled in Georgia as a refugee, was captured in the territory of Georgia and transferred to Yerevan. Later she was sent back to Azerbaijan as an Azeri. The list of facts confirming the policy of the "Great Armenia from Sea to Sea" and the genocide carried out by Yerevan is too long.

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional protocols thereto contain provisions by which States guarantee security and life and respect for and protection of personal rights and religious beliefs of prisoners of war and civilians falling under the power of an adverse party.

The Azerbaijani party steadily follows these norms. The Government issued documents officially banning the taking of civilians as hostages. More than 70 Armenian hostages held by several families were brought together and released unconditionally and unilaterally. However, the Armenian party is ignoring these norms, treating prisoners of war in the most cruel way, denying them a minimum guarantee of humane treatment.

Women, children and elderly people are suffering more than others. There is the example of the unnecessary operation performed on three-year-old Shovgi Aliyev, part of whose right armbone was amputated together with muscles, obviously with the aim of using it in a transplant.

Nazaket Mammedova, a 15-year-old girl, was taken hostage together with her father in Shousha on 8 May 1992. Her father's honour and dignity had been insulted in her presence for a long time. He was severely beaten, his ear was cut off, he was tortured with a red-hot iron and made an invalid. Only after that he was released, but his daughter was held hostage until 4 April 1993, when she was finally sold to her family for 4 million manats. Her mother could not endure all these extortions and threats and lost her mind.

A 15-year-old girl, Ofelia Guliyava, has been held hostage for eight months already. She is suffering from a mortal bullet wound in her arm, but in spite of this the Armenian party denies medical care to the girl, who is thus doomed to die slowly and painfully, and ignores the persistent requests of the International Committee of the Red Cross, refusing to release the child.

A two-year-old girl, Nourlana Kerimova, is suffering an even harder fate. She has lost eyesight owing to serious trauma to the head which she received during her four-month period of being held hostage. However, the heaviest loss the baby has suffered has been the death of her mother, who couldn't stand the moral and physical humiliation and committed suicide after two unsuccessful attempts.

According to local people's evidence and also that of Farkhad Yusifov, who had shared the hardships of prison life with Islam Gadjev, a 60-year-old man from the Goubatli region, he had been practically healthy before he was taken hostage. The Armenians subjected him to cruel beatings, hit him on the head repeatedly so he went out of his mind and subjected him to humiliation and torture. He was forced to lick the dirty floor and to stand still for hours, and he was beaten cruelly and repeatedly so that his kidneys were affected.

An 83-year-old inhabitant of Korazilli village of the Fizouli region, Tamasha Noukhiyeva, died three days after she had been exchanged. Her 47-year-old son, Vagif Noukhiyev, died as a result of severe beatings when he was held hostage.

Young girls and women, prisoners of war and young hostages are being treated in the most inhuman, brutal way. Many of them die owing to the denial of medical care and food, severe beatings and torture. These are the facts of such deaths: 17 prisoners in the Shousha prison, 7 persons in the Khankendi kindergarten and 5 persons in the Khankendi Children's Hospital died for the reasons mentioned above or committed suicide because they were unable to endure the suffering. Another fact of torture and death: the deputy Head of the Kafan Police Board, Gasmanov, subjected Magerram Makhiatdinov to daily severe beatings and made him insane. The victim died from numerous haemorrhages of the internal organs. The Armenians in the military police knocked out the hip joint of Zaour Goulmammedov, shot at Arzou Ibrahimov's leg, beat Rafig Pashayev severely and repeatedly until he lost his memory and dislocated Rafail Talibov's arm. The latter was injected with some strange orange substance. Ten days after the injection he lost half of his weight, lost his memory, became apathetic, did not respond and could not control his movements.

In August 1993, the Armenian policemen put Zakir Vekil Oglu in a car and threw him out in the outskirts of Kirovka settlement in the Marneul region,

Georgia. He died after being in a coma in Gazah Local Hospital. The post-mortem investigation showed that he had died because of starvation and trauma. It was recorded that his body was covered with cigarette burns and haemorrhages, his right fingernails and left toenails had been pulled out and internal organs had been damaged.

According to some former prisoners of war and hostages' evidence, Armenian policemen, military men and civilians bring prisoners of war out of their cells at a particular hour, especially at night, into the corridor, subject them to physical and moral pressure, beat them severely, force them to fight each other, extract gold caps, break teeth and bones, pull out fingernails, torture with red-hot irons and so on. They burnt a cross on Mail Mammedov's chest. His whole body, as well as Arzou Ibrahimov's and Zaour Goulmammedov's was covered with cigarette burns. The so-called Armenian "doctors" cut Goulmammedov's wound to take out the bullet using ordinary scissors without any anaesthesia, after which they made stitches with an ordinary needle.

Our "civilized" neighbours have introduced and are practising a strange habit not known anywhere else - the sale of prisoners, hostages and dead bodies. "Specialists" have appeared who have good "business" in this deal. They interrogate the prisoners and hostages jointly with the representatives of the authorities, finding out their financial background. After that, they take those prisoners of war hostages who potentially can pay, contact their relatives and arrange sales.

The price of a living person three months ago was 3 to 15 million roubles. A dead body cost 1 to 3 million roubles. Now the price has risen: 30 million for a living person, 5 million for a dead body.

The authorities of Armenia resort to all kinds of tricks to conceal aggressive intentions concerning Azerbaijan. Armenia tries to place claims on the territory of the sovereign Republic as the fight of the Armenians of Karabakh. At the same time, the Armenians do not deny the fact that there are Azeri prisoners of war and hostages in the territory of their country. Actually, the figures are not true. According to them, there are only 34 prisoners of war. However, according to our sources and witnesses' evidence there are 12 prisoners of war in the Sesian Police Board, 27 prisoners of war in the military-political Board N.10724 of Yerevan, 10 prisoners of war in the Kafan Police Board and 8 prisoners of war and hostages in the Vardenis Police Board, etc.

Civilians Farkhad Yusifov, Islam Gadjiyev, Kiamil Veliyev, Telish Niftaliyeva and Geichak Ismayilova, captured between 28 and 30 August 1993 in the Zangelan and Goubatli regions, were brought back to Azerbaijan from Yerevan. This is further evidence of the hypocrisy of the Armenian authorities, who are misinforming the world community about the Azeri prisoners of war and hostages. The fact that prisoners of war and hostages are being taken to Armenia confirms once again that all actions of Nagorny Karabakh are being coordinated by Armenia.

Since the conflict started, our Republic has lost over 10,000 lives, 30,000 people have been wounded and 50,000 people have become disabled. The basic ethnic resources have been seriously damaged.

One quarter of the territory of the Republic has been occupied for the past five and one-half years, over 600 settlements have been ruined, over 4,000 industrial and agricultural enterprises, over 80,000 houses with a total area of more than 6 million sq. metres and over 2,000 objects of social and cultural purpose, among them 490 secondary schools, 151 kindergartens and 200 objects of medical care, have been irreparably damaged.

Over 70 per cent of summer pastures have been occupied by the enemy. The seized territories and objects are being officially ransacked.

The former hostages Girtamam Nadjafova, Yusif Farkhadov, Gamra Kouliyev and others witnessed the Armenians ransacking their houses. Sometimes they were forced to help the robbers. Gamra Kouliyev from Milanli village, Goubatli region, saw with his own eyes the soldiers plunder 60 houses of the village, load their trucks and drive in the direction of Armenia. The Armenians boasted that they had burnt down villages and ruined houses.

Our soldiers captured Armais Minasian, an inhabitant of Tekh village, Goriss region, Armenia; Screzha Bagirian, Hamlet Mkrtichian, Benik and Edic Allakhverdian and Ounar Sarkisian, inhabitants of Khankendi; and Vagif Grigorian from the Dashalti village, Shousha region, while they were looting our villages. All those under arrest admitted that they had been systematically looting houses in the occupied territories.